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Cassis bill restricting imported trash sent to governor *SB 502 protects Michigan's environment*

Lansing – Legislation tightening restrictions on out-of-state waste is headed to the governor's desk, Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, sponsor of the bill, announced today.

In January's State of the State Address, the governor asked the Legislature to send her this legislation, keeping trash out of Michigan from states whose standards are not as restrictive.

Work on this legislation was well under way long before the governor called for it in her State of the State Address. Senate Bill 502, introduced in May, prohibits out-of-state waste from entering the state unless the place of origin has the same stringent waste standards as Michigan.

"This bill removes a double standard in trash disposal," Cassis said. "It just makes sense that Michigan landfills only accept trash from places with laws as protective as ours."

SB 502 would prohibit materials from other states and countries such as tires, batteries, yard clippings, and used oil from Michigan landfills. Such materials are prohibited from Michigan waste.

The legislation is part of an 11-bill package that tightens restrictions on solid-waste disposal in Michigan. Other key provisions in the package would:

- Require the state Department of Environmental Quality to provide a statewide inspection program, which would mandate at least four inspections each year of each landfill to ensure compliance. Random inspections also could be conducted.
- Add two important new landfill bans – beverage containers and whole tires – to further reduce reliance on landfills and encourage recycling.
- Grant the DEQ director emergency power to prohibit any waste shipment that poses a threat to the public's health or safety or to the safety of the environment.
- Add new fines of up to \$25,000 per day for violating certain laws related to disposing of waste in landfills.
- Mandate a two-year moratorium on issuing certain new landfill permits.